

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 05222 01 OF 02 241109Z

12

ACTION H-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-07 ISO-00 NEA-07 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /021 W

----- 054232

R 241000Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4169

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CAIRO 5222

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (BAKER, HOWARD)

SUBJECT: CODEL BAKER, MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY

1. SUMMARY: SENATOR BAKER AND PARTY, ACCOMPANIED BY CHARGE, HAD ONE-HOUR INFORMAL CONVERSATION WITH FONMIN FAHMY DURING WHICH FAHMY COMMENTED ON VARIETY OF SUBJECTS IN CONTEXT OF MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, TOUCHING SUCCESSIVELY AND (A) LETTER RE ISRAEL SIGNED BY 76 SENATORS AND SECDEF COMMENTS ON OIL EMBARGO; (B) PALESTINIAN SITUATION; (C) PROSPECTS FOR GENEVA CONFERENCE; (D) ISRAELI INFLUENCE ON US; (E) IMPORTANCE OF SALZBURG SUMMIT; (F) LEBANESE DIFFICULTIES; AND (G) SOVIET SUPPLY OF SOPHISTICATED MILITARY WEAPONS TO LIBYA. FAHMY'S PRINCIPAL THEME THROUGHOUT DISCUSSION WAS THAT PROGRESS TOWARD SETTLEMENT OF ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM WOULD, IN FINAL ANALYSIS, DEPEND UPON ISRAELI ESTIMATE OF FIRMNESS OF US POLICY AND WILLINGNESS OF USG TO ACT IN SUPPORT OF ITS OWN NATIONAL INTERESTS.

2. FONMIN AND MRS. FAHMY GRACIOUSLY INVITED SENATOR AND MRS. BAKER, CHARGE AND MRS. MAESTRONE, TOGETHER WITH SENATOR'S ASSISTANTS TILLMAN AND BRANSON, TO THEIR APARTMENT FOR INFORMAL CONVERSATION WHICH LASTED ONE HOUR ON FRIDAY, MAY 23. FAHMY DID MOST OF THE TALKING, NEEDING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAIRO 05222 01 OF 02 241109Z

ONLY VERY LITTLE PROMPTING BY QUESTIONS, AND

COMMENTED ON WIDE VARIETY OF SUBJECTS RELATED TO THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. PRINCIPAL POINTS OF INTEREST ARE HIGHLIGHTED BELOW.

A. COORDINATION OF AMERICAN POLICY - FAHMY REFERRED TO LETTER TO PRESIDENT FORD SIGNED BY 76 SENATORS CALLING FOR BROAD SUPPORT OF ISRAEL AND RECENT STATEMENTS BY SECDEF SCHLESINGER RE POSSIBLE US REACTION TO OIL EMBARGO. HE THOUGH BOTH WERE MOST INOPPORTUNE AT THIS TIME WHEN US ADMINISTRATION IS IN PROCESS OF REASSESSING ITS ME POLICY. SENATOR BAKER EXPLAINED THAT SIGNIFICANCE OF SENATORIAL LETTER SHOULD NOT BE OVER-ESTIMATED, NOTING THAT MANY SUCH LETTERS COME ACROSS SENATOR'S DESKS AND IMPACT OF THEIR CONTENT IS USUALLY AIMED AT CONSTITUTENTS RATHER THAN OUTSIDE PARTIES. HE DID NOT FEEL THAT ALL SENATORS WHO SIGNED WOULD ALLOW THEIR VOTES ON CRITICAL ISSUES TO BE AFFECTED BY HAVING DONE SO.

B. PALESTINIANS. SENATOR BAKER MENTIONED HIS MEETINGS WITH ARAFAT AND WITH GROUP OF PALESTINIAN INTELLECTUALS IN BEIRUT MAY 22 AND EXPRESSED STRONG VIEW THAT PALESTINIAN CAUSE COULD NEVER GENERATE SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION IN US, AS WELL AS MOST OF WORLD AS LONG AS PALESTINIAN TERRORIST ACTIVITY CONTINUES. FAHMY REMARKED THAT MANY PALESTINIANS WERE OPPOSED TO TERRORIST ACTIVITY OUTSIDE OF ISRAEL AND SAID THESE NOW INCLUDED HABBASH AND CERTAIN OTHER RADICALS IN ADDITION TO ARAFAT. ASKED BY SENATOR TO COMMENT ON PALESTINIAN REACTION TO SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD PLO, FAHMY SAID THAT PLO WAS DISAGREEABLY SURPRISED BY FIRM SOVIET POSITION SUPPORTING EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL BECAUSE THEY HAD ASSUMED PREVIOUS EXPRESSIONS OF SOVIET SUPPORT MEANT FULL ACCEPTANCE OF THEIR POSITION AND POLICIES. THEY DID NOT APPRECIATE FACT THAT SOVIET UNION WAS SUPERPOWER WHICH HAD BROADER INTERESTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES THAN THOSE RELATED TO PALESTINIAN SITUATION.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CAIRO 05222 01 OF 02 241109Z

FAHMY INDICATED THAT PLO WOULD SOON FORM GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE AND PALESTINIANS WOULD THEN BECOME MORE RESPONSIBLE.

C. GENEVA CONFERENCE - QUERIED BY SENATOR BAKER ON PROSPECTS OF GENEVA CONFERENCE, FAHMY SAID EGYPT WOULD NOT ATTEND GENEVA CONFERENCE UNLESS PLO WOULD BE PRESENT. THIS DID NOT MEAN

HOWEVER, THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE THERE FROM THE BEGINNING. AS FOR CONFERENCE ITSELF, EGYPT WOULD NOT GO TO GENEVA TO AGREE TO PARTIAL ARRANGEMENT AS CONTINUATION OF STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS. AT GENEVA, EGYPT WOULD PRESENT OVERALL PLAN FOR SETTLEMENT WHICH, HOWEVER, COULD BE IMPLEMENTED BY STAGES ACCORDING TO AGREED TIME-TABLE.

D. ISRAELI INFLUENCE ON US - IN RESPONSE TO SENATOR'S QUESTION REGARDING HIS ESTIMATE OF WHAT THE SITUATION IN ME WOULD BE IN ONE YEAR'S TIME, FAHMY REPLIED THAT THIS DEPENDED ON ISRAEL'S ESTIMATE OF FIRMNESS OF US POLICY AND INTENTIONS TO FIND PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO ME PROBLEM. FURTHER, IT WOULD ALSO DEPEND ON WHETHER THE US IS WILLING TO ACT IN ITS OWN NATIONAL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 05222 02 OF 02 241127Z

12

ACTION H-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-07 ISO-00 NEA-07 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /021 W
----- 054528

R 241000Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4170

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 CAIRO 5222

LIMDIS

INTEREST. HE EMPHASIZED EGYPT'S COMMITMENT TO US AND ITS EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE ME SETTLEMENT AND TO THE EXCLUSION OF SOVIET INFLUENCE IN THE AREA, BUT US SEEMED UNABLE TO ACT. HE CITED FAILURE OF KISSINGER'S SECOND DISENGAGEMENT EFFORT AS REBUFF TO US BY ISRAEL AND AS DIRECT CHALLENGE OF POLICY OF US ADMINISTRATION. HE COMMENTED WRITING THAT EVEN THOSE ARABS WHO WERE AGAINST EGYPT'S SUPPORT OF STEP-BY-STEP POLICY WERE DISAPPOINTED BY FAILURE OF KISSINGER EFFORT. FAHMY SAID HE FAILED TO UNDERSTAND HOW THE US COULD CONTINUE,

IN CONTEXT OF THIS SITUATION, TO ENCOURAGE COMMUNIST AND USSR INFLUENCE IN ME. HE RECALLED THAT, AT TIME WHEN AMERICANS BELIEVED EGYPT WAS UNDER SOVIET DOMINATION, NASSER ACCEPTED ROGERS PLAN AND JARRING PROPOSALS, BUT IT WAS ALWAYS ISRAEL THAT REJECTED THEM AND PREVENTED PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF ME PROBLEM.

E. SALZBURG SUMMIT - TURNING TO FORTHCOMING SALZBURG MEETING, FAHMY CALLED IT THE "SUMMIT OF SUMMITS" AND SAID THAT ALL EYES WERE ON MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENTS FORD AND SADAT. FAHMY NOTED, IN THIS CONTEXT, THAT PRESIDENT SADAT WOULD STOP BRIEFLY AT THEN, AT THE REQUEST OF PRIMIN KARAMANLIS, ON HIS WAY TO BELGRADE MAY 29 FEBORE GOING TO AUSTRIA.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAIRO 05222 02 OF 02 241127Z

F. LEBANESE DIFFICULTIES - QUERIED BY SENATOR BADER, FAHMY COMMENTED ON CURRENT LEBANESE DIFFICULTIES, INDICATING THAT IT PRIMARILY STEMMED FROM BASIC MOSLEM-CHRISTIAN CONFLICT AND THAT PALESTINIANS WERE NOT MAJOR PARTY IN AFFAIR. HE NOTED PRESIDENT SADAT'S CONCERN OVER DETERIORATING SITUATION IN BEIRUT AND SAID THAT SADAT WAS IN DAILY TELEPHONE CONTACT (SOMETIME TWICE-A-DAY) WITH LEBANESE PRESIDENT FRANGIEH AND ALSO IN TOUCH WITH ARAFAT ON SITUATION.

G. SOVIET MILITARY SUPPLY OF LIBYA - FAHMY EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN OVER THE REPORTED CONCLUSION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN USSR AND LIBYA FOR FORMER TO SUPPLY LATTER WITH LARGE QUANTITIES OF HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS ON CONDITION THAT LIBYANS ACCEPT SOVIET ADVISORS AT ALL LEVELS. ASKED BY CHARGE AS TO RELIABILITY OF THIS REPORT, FAHMY STATED THAT IT WAS 100 PERCENT RELIABLE AND, INDEED, EGYPTIANS HAD DOCUMENTS CONFIRMING THIS. HE SAID THAT SOVIETS WOULD SUPPLY 2,000 TANKS OF T-62 MODEL AND SAM 6'S AND 7'S AS WELL AS ESTRELLA ROCKETS. HE VIEWED THIS DEVELOPMENT VERY SERIOUSLY AND REGARDED IT AS A THREAT TO EXISTING BALANCE IN NORTH AFRICAN REGION.

H. SYRIAN EXTENSION OF UNDOF MANDATE - ASKED BY SENATOR TO COMMENT ON SYRIAN UNDOF EXTENSION, FAHMY DECLARED THAT THIS DEMONSTRATED SYRIANS WERE FOLLOWING EGYPTIAN LINE IN SEEKING PEACEFUL

SOLUTION. IN REPLY TO SENATOR'S EXPRESSION OF
SURPRISE IN LENGTH OF EXTENSION, FAHMY SMILED
AND SAID SYRIANS WERE VERY COMPLEX PEOPLE. THIS
WAS THEIR WAY OF SEEKING TO OUTDO EGYPTIANS.
HE NOTED, IN THE CONNECTION, THAT ONLY 36 HOURS
PRIOR TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT SYRIANS HAD FORMALLY
INFORMED UNSYG WALDHEIM THAT THERE WOULD BE NO
EXTENSION. WALDHEIM HAD SENT HIM CABLE URGING
EGYPT TO PERSUADE SYRIANS TO EXTEND AND HIS REPLY
TO UNSYG WAS NOT TO WORRY AND BE PATIENT.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CAIRO 05222 02 OF 02 241127Z

3. SENATOR BAKER CONCLUDED VISIT BY THANKING
FONMIN FAHMY FOR RECEIVING HIM ON HIS "DAY OFF"
AND WISHED HIM AND PRESIDENT SADAT EVERY
SUCCESS IN THEIR ENDEAVORS FOR PEACE.
MAESTRONE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAIRO05222
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750183-0100
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750518/aaaaaqha.tel
Line Count: 245
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <07 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL BAKER, MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY
TAGS: OREP, PFOR, IS, EG, UR, US, XF, LY, (BAKER, HOWARD), (FAHMI, ISMA'IL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006